

Wing commander's thoughts on wing assessment, pages 10 and 11

Border Eagle

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Oct. 3, 2003

Newslines

Promotions announced

Kudos to Majors Michael Claffey, 47th Contracting Squadron, and James Sackreiter, 86th Flying Training Squadron, for being selected for promotion to lieutenant colonel.

Congrats to SUPT Class 03-15

Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 03-15 graduates today at 10 a.m. in Anderson Hall. Look for photos in next week's Border Eagle.

Hispanic heritage events set

The base is hosting a panel discussion at 9 a.m. and luncheon at 11:30 a.m. Wednesday at Club XL in honor of National Hispanic Heritage Month.

Shirley Martinez, deputy assistant secretary for equal opportunity, will be the guest speaker. To R.S.V.P. to the panel discussion, call 298-5806; for the luncheon, call 298-4882.

Medal of Honor winner speaks

There will be an air power call 3 p.m. Oct. 10 in Anderson Hall. The guest speaker will be Medal of Honor winner, retired Col. George "Bud" Day. All base members are invited.

Deployment stats

Deployed	Returning next 30 days	Deploying next 30 days
51	1	13

Mission status

(As of Sept. 26)		
Airframe	Days behind or ahead	Mission Capable Rate
T-37	0.47	89.7%
T-1	3.50	76.9%
T-38	1.31	79.0%
T-6	-0.26	90.5%



Photo by Jose Mendoza

Col. Dan Woodward, 47th Flying Training Wing commander, hands Col. Steven Kwast, 47th Operations Group commander, the 47th OG guidon in a change-of-command ceremony Monday on the flight line.

Base welcomes new ops group commander

Compiled by staff reports

Col. Steven Kwast assumed command of the 47th Operations Group from Col. Paul Ackerley in a flight line ceremony Monday.

Colonel Kwast was appointed the position when Colonel Ackerley was recently named the European Command Joint Operations Division chief at the Pentagon in Washington.

Colonel Kwast said he looks forward to joining Team XL as the 47th OG commander and being a part of the mission here.

"The change of command in a wing this busy, in a group this busy, is an important time

to stand back and reflect what we do and why we do it," said Colonel Kwast. "Ever since Sept. 11, we have a different world with a new threat ... Never before has our nation needed a new generation of warriors able to adapt to this new threat and defeat it. We are those warriors. There is no finer place to hone those skills of that warrior spirit than the 47th OG."

Colonel Kwast comes to Laughlin from the Institute for the Study of Conflict, Ideology and Policy at Boston University where he was a na-

See **Kwast**, page 4

Mutual support is key in all aspects of life



Commander's Corner

By Lt. Col. Steven Moore
85th Flying Training Squadron commander

Aircrews throughout the Air Force know and understand the tactical value of mutual support.

Without strong mutual support, mission accomplishment is always in jeopardy. However, we put more in jeopardy than the mission if we don't maintain good mutual support throughout all aspects of our professional and personal lives.

We are all somebody's wingman and we are all someone's flight lead.

Mutual support is analogous with Team XL. Our wing leadership cultivates an atmosphere conducive to strong mutual support throughout the 47th Flying Training Wing. The mission support group provides for all our infrastructure requirements. The medical group tends to all of our health care needs. The main-

tenance directorate supports the operations group by providing fully mission capable aircraft in order to meet the wing's mission of training the world's best pilots.

You may think mutual support starts at the top, and in a way, it does. Our wing leadership provides an atmosphere promoting teamwork and mutual support. But mutual support is only as good as those who chose to execute its tenets.

As I tell my students when they first arrive in the 85th Flying Training Squadron, mutual support and teamwork as a class are the key ingredients to success-

fully survive the rigors of pilot training. The strongest support we gain is within our own units from our peers.

Every member of Team XL can benefit from good mutual support both at home and on the job. Because of our background and training, most of us understand the meaning of mutual support. For those who may need a reminder, suffice it to say it's the art of always being there, knowing what is required and covering your buddy's back while he is engaged.

Good mutual support is more than just following your co-worker or boss into a bad situation.

Just like a good wingman, you have to know when to pipe up and let your supervisor know when you see something wrong or have information he may not have. By providing the information in a timely manner you are supporting the objective of mission success.

Mutual support in our personal lives is just as important as good teamwork in our professional lives. Being supportive to all our family members and expecting the same in return always pays huge benefits in the daily mission objective of a fulfilling life.

So how can each of us ensure we are providing good mutual support? First we must know our job and mission requirements. You can only support the mission if you're executing your job effectively. Second, we must understand our supervisor's job requirements so we can support them. Third, we must have desire and motivation to be engaged in the mission, whether it's at work or at home.

As members of Team XL we should all remember the well-repeated phrase of "One team, one fight" and remember we're all someone's wingman.

Border Eagle

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Deadlines, Advertising

News for the Border Eagle should be submitted to the 47th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs Office, Bldg. 338, Laughlin AFB, TX, 298-5262. **Copy deadline is close of business each Thursday the week prior to publication.**

Advertising should be submitted to the Del Rio News-Herald, 2205 Bedell, Del Rio, TX, 774-4611. Advertising should be submitted by 4 p.m. each Friday.

Submissions can be e-mailed to: timothy.stein@laughlin.af.mil or yvonne.clark@laughlin.af.mil.

My AF uniform means ...

By Airman 1st Class Christopher Kobernuss
97th Logistics Readiness Squadron

ALTUS AIR FORCE BASE, Okla. – What does the uniform mean to me? On the way from my home in Ohio to San Antonio, I kept looking out the window thinking to myself, “I’m really doing this. My family will be so proud. My wife and daughter can sleep easy knowing that I will protect them.”

As my flight landed a little boy behind me was looking out the window. He turned to his mother and asked where the bombs were. His mother told him there were no bombs on this kind of plane. Then he asked, “Who’s going to protect us if there’s no bombs?” His mom said, “Honey, there’s somebody out there to protect us.”

That made me realize that my family wasn’t the only family relying on me for protection. I have a much bigger family now.

My uniform means protection. My uniform means people will not have to wonder who will keep them safe. My uniform means our families will not have to worry about suicide car bombings or guerilla attacks in our streets.

My uniform means freedom. My uniform means service members before

“I know there is no uniform that attracts attention as much as mine does. This is the last uniform I’ll ever wear.”

me gave me the freedom to choose. My uniform means it’s my turn to ensure people after me have that same freedom.

My uniform means honor. My family and I were visiting Sea World at the end of basic training. A woman came up to me and grabbed my arm. She said, “Don’t think I’m crazy, but I want to thank

you for what you’re doing. You have no idea what this means to me. I really appreciate what you’re doing for our country.” Then she thanked me again and shook my hand.

My uniform means pride. How many people wake up in the morning and know they are a part of the greatest force in the world? How many of them put on their uniform and know everybody in the world is watching them? I know there is no uniform that attracts attention as much as mine does. This is the last uniform I’ll ever wear. I know every time I put on my uniform I will look sharp and professional.

My uniform means courage. When the time comes and it’s my turn, I’ll be able to take the training I’ve received and perform in a hostile environment. I’ll put on my uniform and know it means I’ll be able to help people who can’t help themselves. When I put my uniform on, it means I’m willing to get in harm’s way and protect what I believe in. When I put on this uniform, it means my wingman can trust me with his or her life, and I will trust him with mine.

Border Eagle commentaries

The Border Eagle encourages base members to take part in their paper. Anyone wanting to write a commentary for the Viewpoint pages of the paper is welcome.

Commentaries can be written about any aspect of Air Force

life you find interesting. Commentaries should be 250 to 500 words in length. Public Affairs reserves the right to edit all submissions for length and clarity.

Commentaries for the Border Eagle should be submitted to the Public Affairs Office, building 338. The deadline to submit a commentary is close of business each Thursday, the week prior to publication. For more information, call 298-5393.



Col. Dan Woodward
47th Flying Training Wing commander

Actionline 298-5351

This column is one way to work through problems that haven't been solved through normal channels. By leaving your name and phone number, you are assured of a timely personal reply. It's also very useful in case more information is needed in order to pursue your inquiry. If you give your name, we will make every attempt to ensure confidentiality when appropriate.

If your question relates to the

general interest of the people of Laughlin, the question and answer may also be printed in the Border Eagle.

Before you call the Actionline, please try to work the problem out through the normal chain of command or directly with the base agency involved.

Thanks for your cooperation, and I look forward to reading some quality ideas and suggestions.

Below are some useful telephone numbers to that may be helpful when working your issue with a base agency.

AAFES 298-3176
Accounting and Finance 298-5204

Civil Engineer	298-5252
Civilian Personnel	298-5299
Commissary	298-5815
Dormitory manager	298-5213
EEO	298-5879
FWA hotline	298-4170
Hospital	298-6311
Housing	298-5904
Information line	298-5201
Legal	298-5172
MEO	298-5400
Military Personnel	298-5073
Public Affairs	298-5988
Security Forces	298-5900
Services	298-5810



Courtesy photo

Die Hard with a flight suit...

Aimen 1st Class James Trussell and Nidia Espinoza, deployed 47th Security Forces Squadron members, pose with actor Bruce Willis at Ali Al Salem

Air Base, Kuwait. The actor was touring bases in Kuwait and Iraq giving concerts and visiting with the troops deployed there.

Newslines

Gun-hunting meeting set

The Val Verde Military Sportsman's Club will hold a meeting at 6 p.m. Oct. 10 at the base theater for Laughlin members interested in gun hunting on Laughlin.

Hunters must present a valid hunter's safety card or proof of a hunting safety course; Texas resident, special resident or non-resident hunting license; or combination hunting/fishing license and a valid military, Department of Defense, Air Force or Air Education and Training Command identification card to hunt on Laughlin.

All personnel who are interested in deer hunting with a gun must be present to purchase their base hunting permit and their Val Verde Military Sportsman's Club Membership Card. The total cost is \$50.

A stand lottery and safety briefing will also be conducted at this meeting.

For more information, call Staff Sgt. Frank Munderback at 298-5860 or Master Sgt. Jimmie Davis at 298-5456.

Base exercise to create loud noise

The wing will conduct a large field exercise near the base water treatment facility (about a mile behind the base exchange) from Oct. 14-16.

Between the hours of 5:30 p.m. and 10 p.m. Oct. 15 and between 5 a.m. and 11 a.m. Oct. 16, base residents may hear weapons being fired, ground burst simulators or other exercise-related noises. The Giant Voice system may be used between 5:30 p.m. and 8 p.m. Oct. 15 and between 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. Oct. 16.

For more information, call Public Affairs at 298-5988.

Spouse of the year contest set

The Air Force Personnel Center is taking nominations for the 2004 Joan Orr Air Force Spouse of the Year Award for 2003.

Nominees must not be serving in the military, but must be married to an Air Force member on active duty or in the Reserves.

The award recognizes the significant contributions made by Air Force spouses.

For more information, call 2nd Lt. Sara Birnbaum at 298-5487.

Kwast, from page 1

tional defense fellow. Colonel Kwast has a total of 2,300 flying hours in the F-15E. Of those hours, 238 are combat hours during operations Desert Storm, Desert Shield, Southern Watch, Enduring Freedom and operations over Kosovo.

Colonel Kwast earned a Bachelor of Science from the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colo., in 1986. He earned a master's in public policy from Harvard's

Kennedy School of Government in Cambridge, Mass., in 1988. In 1996, Colonel Kwast completed Air War College by correspondence.

Colonel Kwast's achievements include Top Wing Combat Pilot, Top F-15E Pilot in the Air Force and winner of the Robbie Risner Trophy in 1995 as Top Fighter Pilot in the Air Force.

Among his awards and decorations are the Defense Superior Service Medal, Distinguished Flying Cross, Meritorious Service Medal with one oak leaf cluster, four Air Medals and four Aerial Achievement Medals.

Air Force Climate Survey kicks off

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas – People have the power to change the future when they complete the 2003 Air Force Climate Survey. It launched Wednesday.

“‘Speak Today, Shape Tomorrow’ is a great message for all of us,” said Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Gerald Murray. “I strongly encourage you to participate in this survey. I hope you support this effort, because with this data, we can make this great Air Force of ours better. Together, we can shape tomorrow for the Air Force, our people, and our families.”

The survey, offered every two years since 1997, measures how people feel about leadership, supervision, training, recognition and other aspects of Air Force organizations.

Previous surveys included active-duty officers, enlisted members, and appropriated-fund civilians. This year, the survey will include the Air Force Reserve Command, Air National Guard, non-appropriated-fund civilians, and students in a temporary-duty status.

The survey runs through Nov. 23 and can be completed online at <http://afclimatesurvey.af.mil> anytime during the survey period from either a government or personal computer. (Courtesy of the Air Force Manpower and Innovation Agency)

Interested in the Air Force? *Call Del Rio’s Air Force recruiter at 774-0911.*

Wing offers mentorship program for Del Rio youth

By Airman 1st Class Yvonne Clark
Staff writer

Laughlin personnel and students in sixth-12th grades will soon pair up in the “One Person Can” mentorship program sponsored by the Helping Us Grow Stronger committee.

The school-based program links Laughlin volunteers with at-risk students in Del Rio for at least one hour per week to encourage youth to set positive goals for themselves, said Judy Rhinesmith, base mentor program manager.

“The overall goal of the mentorship program is for mentors to provide one-on-one support and guidance to students having frequent absences, poor grades, and discipline and emotional problems,” said Mrs. Rhinesmith.

Mrs. Rhinesmith received the idea of beginning this program working as a seventh-grade parent-teacher organization

president. “I was putting together a dress-code fashion show, and we needed a boy with facial hair. The only seventh-grader there with facial hair was a boy who had been in the seventh grade for a number of years and came from a home with limited support,” said Mrs.

Rhinesmith. “I thought, no way is he going to show up, but he was there on time, in the clothes he was supposed to wear, doing what he was supposed to do. The light bulb went off with me that we gave him a purpose and no one else had.”

Mrs. Rhinesmith hopes to give others a purpose as well. “We’re looking to mentor students who can benefit from positive attention and encouragement,” she said. “I believe if a positive person becomes involved in a student’s life, it can greatly increase the student’s self esteem, and that increase

“The overall goal of the mentorship program is for mentors to provide one-on-one support and guidance with students with frequent absences, poor grades, and discipline and emotional problems,”
- Judy Rhinesmith,
Mentor program manager

See **Mentor**, page 8

Mentor, from page 7

will allow the student to do better academically.”

The mentors will offer an array of one-on-one activities on a weekly basis, and all students and mentors will gather for a quarterly activity. “The quarterly events such as base tours, picnics and bowling trips will help link the community children to Laughlin,” said Mrs. Rhinesmith. “I’m hoping to promote this link because the base is an unknown entity to some of these students.”

Along with building a relationship between the community children and the base, Mrs. Rhinesmith said she hopes this program will help increase school atten-

dance, improve attitudes and promote higher academic achievements.

“Some parents here do not see the value of education because for many generations, their families have had to go to work instead of stay in school,” said Mrs. Rhinesmith. “Hopefully through the mentorship program, the children will gain characteristics from their mentor and continue their education.”

Those interested in becoming a mentor may obtain an application from the Laughlin home page at <http://home.laughlin.af.mil> or www.laughlin.af.mil.

Applications should be submitted to Judy Rhinesmith via e-mail or dropped off at the Life Skills Support Center.

For more information, call 298-6351.

Chapel Schedule

Catholic

- Saturday*
- Sunday*
- Thursday*
- Reconciliation*
- Religious Education*
- 5 p.m., Mass
- 9:30 a.m., Mass
- 6 p.m., Choir; 7:30 p.m., Rite of Christian Initiation
- By appointment
- 11 a.m. Sunday

Nondenominational

- Sunday*
- Friday*
- 6 p.m. Officer Christian Fellowship, call 298-2238
- 7 p.m., Unity in Community Fellowship

Protestant

- Sunday*
- Wednesday*
- 9:30, Sunday school
- 11 a.m., General worship
- 7 p.m., Choir

For more information on chapel events, services and other demoninations, call 298-5111.



Laughlin Salutes

September 2003 supplemental promotion listing:

To technical sergeant:

■ Staff Sgt. Michael Kyker, 47th Security Forces Squadron

To staff sergeant:

■ Senior Airman David Chrisman, 47th Operations Support Squadron

■ Senior Airman Sean Flansbaum, 47th Civil Engineer Squadron

■ Senior Airman Kimberly Henton, 47th Medical Operations Squadron

■ Senior Airman David Myers, 47th OSS

■ Senior Airman Daniel Sanchez, 47th Communications Squadron

Daedalian Scholarship recipient:

■ Alfredo Balderas, Del Rio High School graduate and cadet at Texas A&M

DRNH Filler

2X2

ALREDO RAMIREZ

2x3

ALESSI BAZAAR

When fire strikes: Get out, stay out

By Ronald E. Anderson
*47th Civil Engineering Squadron
fire chief*

A new Fire Prevention Week safety campaign kicks off Sunday through Oct. 11. The campaign is centered on the Oct. 9 anniversary of the great Chicago fire of 1871.

This year's theme is: When fire strikes, get out and stay out.

The focus is to educate all military family members and dormitory occupants in residential fire safety and fire escape planning.

According to the National Fire Protection Association, eight out of 10 fatal fires happen at home, yet most households are unprepared for a fire emergency.

More than half the home residents who responded to a 1999 home escape survey said they developed a home escape plan, but only 16 percent actually practiced it. Practice is essential; there's no time to waste in a real fire emergency.

As part of this year's Fire Prevention Week campaign, Laughlin will team up with the city of Del Rio to spread the message to improve safety in the Air Force and local communities.

A schedule of events was designed to encourage all military organizations, daycare, youth activities, military family housing and mobile home residents to help bring this year's theme to life.

The fire department urges all personnel to determine what fire escape procedures are most appropriate for their type of occupancy.

For more information, call the fire department at 298-5037 or 298-5036.

Fire Prevention Week schedule of events

Saturday:

10-11 a.m. – Fire prevention parade begins at the fire station and ends at the base exchange parking lot.

11 a.m.-2 p.m. - Public fire education and information booth, fire truck display, live fire extinguisher demonstration, fire safety trailer and refreshments at the BX parking lot.

Monday:

1-2 p.m. – Fire extinguisher classes at the Laughlin fire station

Tuesday:

9-10 a.m. and 1-2 p.m. – Fire extinguisher classes at the Laughlin fire station

Wednesday:

9-11 a.m. – Fire extinguisher classes.

Thursday:

9 a.m.-3 p.m. – Fire station open house. Automobile extraction, smoke

house trailer fire safety demonstration, stove top pan fire demonstration, dunk tank, bounce castle, portable live fire extinguisher demonstration and refreshments.

10-noon – Children reading session, fire safety video and fire truck display at the base library.

Oct. 10:

10 a.m.-2 p.m. – Refreshments, live fire extinguisher demonstration, public fire education and information booth and fire safety trailer

Oct. 11:

1-2 p.m. – Sparky the fire-dog at Wal-Mart Supercenter

Del Rio and Laughlin fire stations personnel will visit the following schools:

Oct. 14

9-10:30 a.m. – Cardwell Elementary School

Oct. 17:

9:30-1030 a.m. – Sam Houston Elementary School

Oct. 20:

9-10:30 a.m. – North Heights Elementary School

Oct. 21:

9-10:30 a.m. – Garfield Elementary School

Oct. 22:

9-10:30 a.m. – Lamar Elementary School

Oct. 23:

9-10:30 a.m. – Buena Vista Elementary School

Oct. 24:

9-10:30 a.m. – Ruben Chavira Elementary School

Oct. 27:

9-10:30 a.m. – East Side Elementary School

Oct. 29:

9-10:30 a.m. – Little School House

Oct. 30:

9-10:30 a.m. – Bible Way School

Commander's thoughts on wing assessment

By Col. Dan Woodward
47th Flying Training Wing commander

Thank you, Team XL, for providing your thoughts during our recent Wing Climate Assessment. Thirty-eight percent of you participated in the opportunity we offered last month to provide feedback on a variety of morale and welfare issues. This participation rate is the highest I have ever seen and reflects a genuine desire to make things better throughout the Laughlin community.

In addition to the information that follows, we received literally hundreds of comments, critiques and complements from Team XL members who took the time to provide written notes with their responses. If you are one who made written comments, I want you to know I personally read every word and appreciate your thoughts... both favorable and unfavorable. Given the sheer number of comments and the fact the assessment was anonymous, I cannot directly respond to each of your comments. However, you have my word you have been heard and I have taken

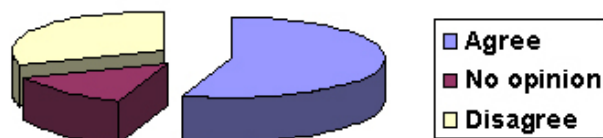
your comments to heart.

Fortunately, the good news is that the vast majority of responses indicate our community is free from harassment and provides a work environment that is strong in terms of motivation, recognition and morale. While, like all organizations, we certainly have room to grow. Overall I am confident you will agree the results are generally strong. If you are one who disagrees or is having problems, please elevate your concerns through the chain of command or other channels so they may be addressed.

I again want you to know I ap-

preciate your participation and interest in this assessment. We all share the responsibility for our mission and play a significant part in fostering the teamwork that assures our success. While the climate is not perfect here, your comments and responses indicate significant strength. I firmly believe the power of positive thinking builds a winning attitude... and winning is contagious. Thank you for all you have done and all you will do in making Team XL truly excel.

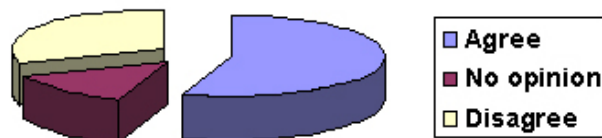
Workcenter manning



55 percent agree their workcenter is adequately manned to accomplish core tasks. 14 percent have no opinion and 30 percent disagree.

My thoughts: This is a common concern throughout the Air Force. Not only do we have fewer positions than we think we need, we also often have vacant positions and skill-level mismatches that complicate mission accomplishment at Laughlin. While the entire Air Force faces challenges here, we have worked hard to raise ours to Air Education and Training Command. The jury is still out on our efforts, but I am optimistic we will see some command and Air Force policy changes that will slowly bring more experience here. I am less optimistic in terms of overall manning changes but will continue to work this issue on behalf of every Team XL member.

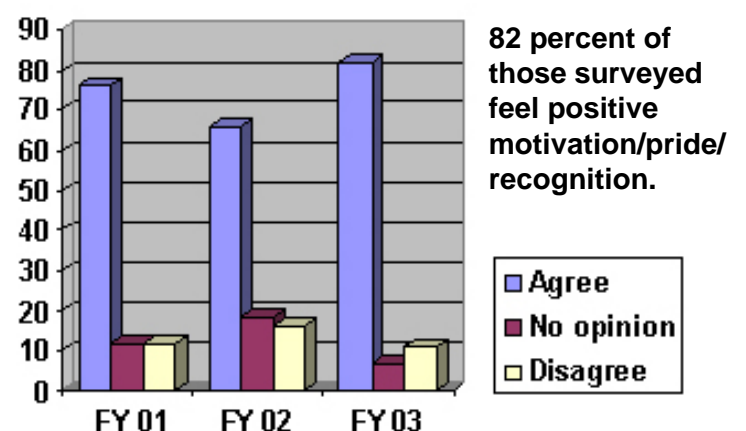
Adequate medical care



55 percent agree local medical care is adequate for their family while 14 percent have no opinion and 30 percent disagree.

My thoughts: We know there are some areas requiring attention, but this is a challenging issue due to resources. Again, look for a comprehensive and open discussion on available care in the area, to include Wilford Hall, shortly.

Motivation Pride Recognition



My thoughts: Both in percentage terms and in improvement over last year, this slide is encouraging. I want each of you to know, you are vital to this wing and our Air Force. Many of your comments indicate you appreciate the "pat on the back" as much as any other kind of recognition. You deserve it... and I will try to do more of it.

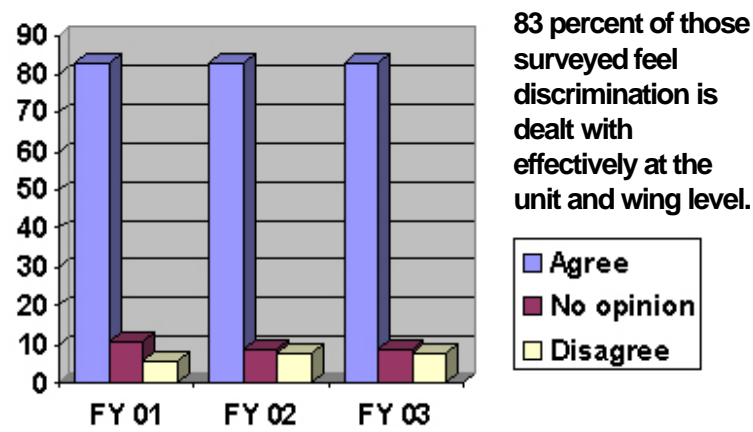
BRAC/A-76 knowledge



23 percent agree they are adequately informed about BRAC/A-76 issues while 62 percent have no opinion and 15 disagree.

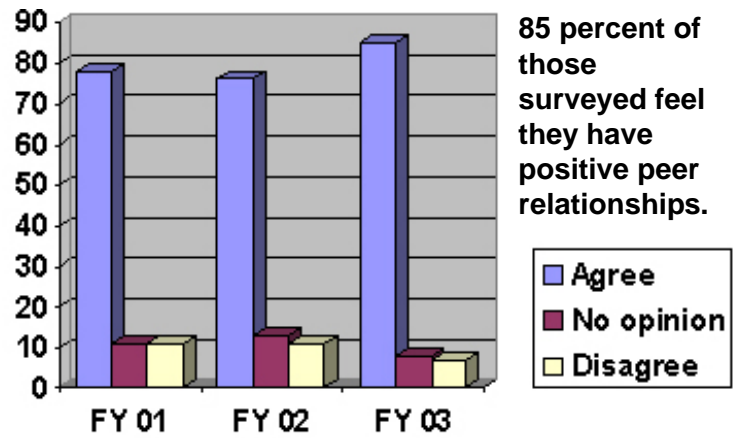
My thoughts: We will fix this. Look for information in future issues of the Border Eagle.

Fair treatment and discrimination



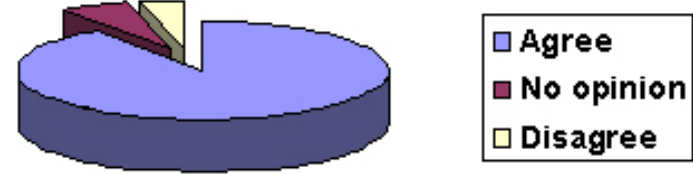
My thoughts: The numbers here are good, but we cannot rest in this area until they approach perfect. Again, the policy here is clear: Team XL will not practice any form of discrimination, nor will any be tolerated.

Peer Relationships



My thoughts; Outstanding! This slide indicates that in the vast majority of cases, you get along with each other. This is a fundamental first step in being successful as a team and shows that, despite the stress of low manning, most work centers include friendship and mutual respect as part of the mix.

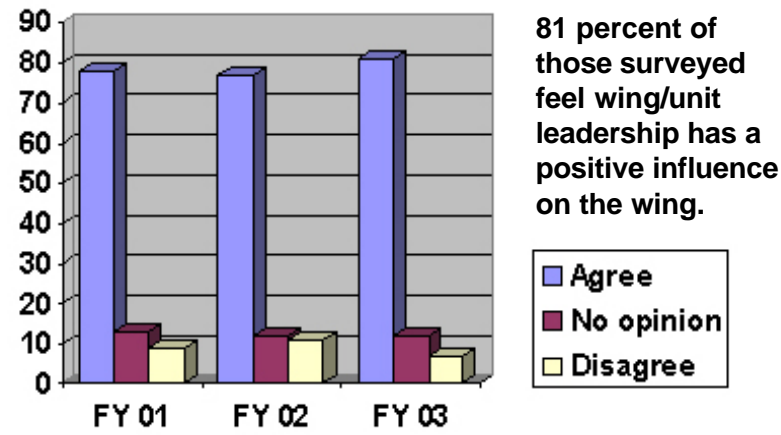
Individual importance



90 percent believe they are important to Laughlin's success while 6 percent have no opinion and 4 percent disagree.

My thoughts: Another great response. No matter what you do on this base, you matter. We are the busiest pilot training wing in the Air Force, and I need every one of you to move our mission forward. If you doubt that, I encourage you to ask your supervisor or commander about your impact on our mission. I guarantee you... we need you, the Air Force needs you, our country needs you, and it is because of you that our mission gets done. Your piece of the puzzle may be large or it may be small, but we cannot do without it.

Unit Leadership



My thoughts: This slide is also encouraging. I believe we have superb squadron and group commanders, front-line supervisors and flight chiefs/commanders. Certainly no one can be expected to be perfect and so I ask that where problems exist, you work together to build a stronger team.

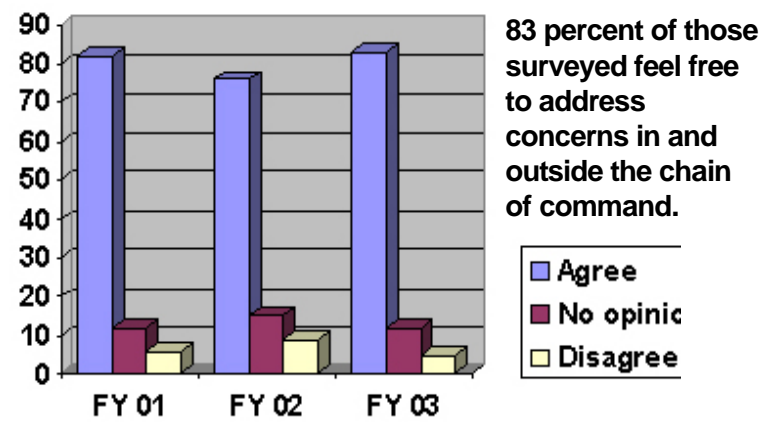
Laughlin's importance



98 percent believe that Laughlin is important to the Air Force while 1.6 percent have no opinion and .4 percent disagree.

My thoughts: I wrote this question and could not be happier with the results. We are building the greatest Air Force in the world here at Laughlin and deploying forces worldwide every week. We are the largest pilot training wing in the world, and the Air Force simply could not sustain itself without Team XL. I salute you and thank you!

Freedom to complain



My thoughts: You can be heard through the chain of command, IG, EEO, action line or other channels. To the 3 percent who expressed concern here, I want you to know the Air Force policy on reprisal is clear: There will be none.



(Left) Col. Dan Woodward, 47th Flying Training Wing commander, gets up after being soaked while in the dunk tank. (Bottom) Lucas Burns, son of Capt. Larry and Michele Burns, 85th Flying Training Squadron chief of training, enjoys the slide at the park.



(Above) A picnic-goer enjoys a game of horse shoes. (Right) Base members participate in a water balloon toss. The team representing wing staff agencies won the event.

Wing appreciation day

Laughlin members take time to enjoy base picnic

**By Airman 1st Class
Timothy J. Stein
Editor**

Team XL showed up in droves to the FamCamp Monday to have a base picnic. Members attending the picnic were able to enjoy

free food and drinks along with volleyball, horse shoes, music and a chance to drench senior leadership in a dunk tank. The picnic began with a small ceremony to honor Laughlin members deployed throughout the world.

“I am happy to do these kind of things for the wing,” said Col. Dan Woodward, 47th Flying Training Wing commander. “This is my way of saying thank you to the men and women of Team XL for their hard work and outstanding performance.”



Photos by Airman 1st Class Timothy J. Stein



Photo by Airman 1st Class Timothy J. Stein

Tech. Sgt. Michael Newell, 47th Mission Support Squadron training manager, raises his right hand and repeats after Lt. Col. Jennifer Graham, 47th MSS commander, during his reenlistment ceremony Sept. 25.

Medical marvel gets his wish

By Airman 1st Class
Timothy J. Stein
Editor

Club Amistad has held many reenlistment ceremonies in its day, but on Sept. 25 it held one that will stay in the memory of everyone who attended for a long time to come.

The person reenlisting was Tech. Sgt. Michael Newell, 47th Mission Support Squadron training manager, a person some people thought might not be alive today let alone reenlist in the Air Force.

Sergeant Newell's story is one of determination and courage, said many of the people who spoke at his reenlistment. In December of 2001 Sergeant Newell found out he had a brain tumor the size of a baseball on his brain stem.

Doctors at Wilford

Hall Medical Center at Lackland Air Force Base spent more than 57 hours, the longest surgery in the history of Wilford Hall, removing the tumor. Sergeant Newell then spent the next four months in intensive care, a period of time he can not recall.

Since then, Sergeant Newell has been in a struggle to prove he can still be an asset to the Air Force.

"They offered me disability," said Sergeant Newell. "I turned it down because I didn't want to be done with the Air Force. I still believe in the cause, and I am still having fun."

Sergeant Newell had to be medically qualified before he was allowed to reenlist. He made it with recommendations from Col. Chuck Hardin, 47th Medical Group commander, and doctors at

Wilford Hall. He is now worldwide qualified again.

At the ceremony Sergeant Newell thanked each one of them along with his coworkers who supported him throughout the ordeal. He also gave thanks to his wife, Diana.

"There is no way I could have done this without my wife," said Sergeant Newell. "I wouldn't be here today if it wasn't for her. Every time I was about to give up, I thought of her. It got me through the hard times because I knew I didn't want to let her down."

The *XL*er

Tech. Sgt. Daniel Beary
47th Aeromedical-Dental Squadron

Hometown: Shipperville, Pa.

Family: Wife, Darla; dogs, Arrow and Sampson

Time at Laughlin: One year, seven months

Time in service: 17 years, seven days

Greatest accomplishments:

Serving my country

Hobbies: Motorcycles, traveling and barbecuing

Bad habits: Waiting until the last minute to get things done

Favorite movie: "When We Were Soldiers" and "Searching For Bobby Fisher"

Favorite musician/band:

Too many to pick from

If you could spend one hour with any person, who would it be and why? My fallen bothers and sisters of the Army, Navy, Marines and Air Force to thank them for their greatest gift – their lives for their country.

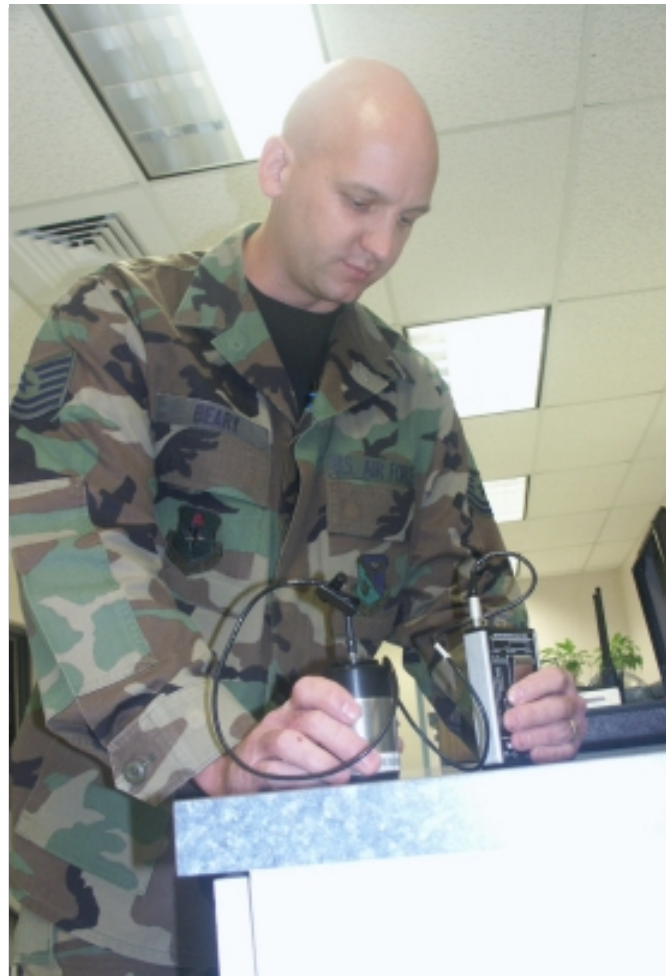


Photo by Airman 1st Class Yvonne Clark

Lt. Col. Jennifer Graham, 47th Mission Support Squadron commander, told a story about how Diana wouldn't let the Air Force medically discharge Sergeant Newell while he was in a coma after the surgery. Diana had power-of-attorney at the time but wouldn't sign the papers because she knew Sergeant Newell didn't want to leave the Air Force under those conditions.

"Diana's energy, thirst for knowledge and aggressive protection in dealing with the medical, personnel and legal staffs over

the course of Mike's surgery and recovery are nothing less than amazing," said Colonel Graham. "Her faith in Mike was unquestionable. They both never considered anything but 100 percent recovery."

Sergeant Newell said he still has a lot he wants to accomplish in the Air Force.

"I want to make master sergeant the next time around," he said. "I am looking forward to new challenges. I plan on sticking around until the Air Force kicks me out or it isn't fun anymore."

Contracting member takes competition

Last week, Tech. Sgt. Victor Tamez, 47th Contracting Squadron, won the contest in overtime by being closer to the total points scored on the Monday night game. To enter the weekly contest, in-

dividuals can put their names in contest boxes located at various Services locations for a chance to forecast winners of weekly NFL football games in the Border Eagle. Five names will be drawn each

week to get an opportunity to pick the most winners of that week's football games. Drop boxes are located at Club XL, Club Amistad, Cactus Lanes, Silver Wings and the Chaparral

Dining facility. The players for this week are: Staff Sgts. Michael Kyker, Anthony Abridello and Richard King; and Senior Airmen Louis Butterfield and Carrie Staugler.



Games:	Staff Sgt. Michael Kyker	Staff Sgt. Anthony Abridello	Staff Sgt. Richard King	Senior Airman Louis Butterfield	Senior Airman Carrie Staugler
Minn.at Atl.	Minnesota	Minnesota	Minnesota	Minnesota	Minnesota
Cin. at Buf.	Buffalo	Buffalo	Buffalo	Buffalo	Buffalo
N.O. at Car.	New Orleans	Carolina	Carolina	Carolina	Carolina
Oak. at Chi.	Oakland	Oakland	Oakland	Oakland	Oakland
Ariz. at Dal.	Arizona	Arizona	Dallas	Dallas	Dallas
Sea. at G.B.	Green Bay	Seattle	Green Bay	Seattle	Green Bay
Den. at K.C.	Kansas City	Kansas City	Kansas City	Kansas City	Kansas City
Tenn. at N.E.	New England	Tennessee	Tennessee	Tennessee	Tennessee
Mia. at N.Y.G.	Miami	Miami	Miami	Miami	Miami
S.D. at Jax.	Jacksonville	Jacksonville	San Diego	Jacksonville	Jacksonville
Wash. at Phi.	Washington	Philadelphia	Washington	Washington	Philadelphia
Det. at S.F.	San Francisco	San Francisco	San Francisco	San Francisco	San Francisco
Cle. at Pitt.	Pittsburgh	Pittsburgh	Cleveland	Pittsburgh	Pittsburgh
Ind. at T.B.	Tampa Bay	Tampa Bay	Indianapolis	Indianapolis	Indianapolis

XL Fitness Center hours

Monday - Thursday:
5 a.m. to midnight

Friday:
5 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Saturday - Sunday:
9 a.m. to 8. p.m.

Holidays:
10 a.m. to 6 p.m.